

Bi-State Action Plan for Conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse
Bi-State Distinct Population Segment
CERTAINTY OF IMPLEMENTATION: FY 2015-2016



In early 2014, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reopened the comment period on the proposed listing decision at the request of the Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) of the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of the Greater Sage-grouse (BSDPS). The EOC responded with a compilation of agency commitments, new scientific information, conservation actions to date, and additional materials providing for the certainty of implementation and certainty of effectiveness for long-term conservation of the BSDPS to meet the

Service's Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts (PECE). That compilation is publicly available at http://www.ndow.org/Nevada_Wildlife/Sage_Grouse/Bi-State_FWS/.

This annual update is provided in the context of those commitments. Total funding is reiterated and, when available, specific funding for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY 15) is indicated. Projects anticipated for FY 15 are identified and the implementation status is provided. Together, the funding and projects continue to provide certainty of implementation of the Bi-State Action Plan.

Agency/Entity \$\$ Commitment	Project Commitment	Implementation Status
Nevada Department of Wildlife \$3.6 million over 10 years	a. Vegetation monitoring b. Population monitoring	a. Coordination by NDOW and Great Basin Institute in progress. b. Lek counts ongoing
California Department of Wildlife	a. Translocation of grouse to Parker Meadows b. Population monitoring c. Predation effects around Long Valley landfill d. Habitat acquisition	a. In planning stages. b. Interagency coordination of saturation lek surveys occurs yearly. CDFW is also partnering with BLM and USGS to track birds in the Bodie and South Mono PMU, with 17 birds collared in 2014. c. Implementation of a raven survey protocol during lek counts anticipated. Initiation of a raven control strategy for the landfill is planned in coordination with Mono County. d. Funding provided for the completed Sinnamon Meadows Easement (1240 acres). Planning effort to identify highest priority lands in progress.
US Forest Service: Humboldt-Toiyabe and Inyo National Forests \$13.9 million over 10 years • \$1,013,235 in FY 15	a. NEPA Huntoon Valley/Swauger Creek b. NEPA Aurora/Gregory Flats	a. NEPA started for Desert Creek, which rated higher based on second iteration of CPT model results. b. NEPA started for Rough Creek (formerly known as China Camp II), which rated higher based on second iteration of CPT model results. c. East Field upland restoration (55 acres)

Agency/Entity \$\$ Commitment	Project Commitment	Implementation Status
	c. Rosachi Ranch habitat improvement d. Wheeler Flat grazing management e. East Walker habitat improvement f. Wheeler Creek meadow restoration g. White Mountains telemetry monitoring	ongoing: Additional planting needed, irrigation plan for Rosaschi Ranch under revision. d. Trough installation planned for spring 2015. e. Completion of NEPA anticipated in March 2015. Implementation will begin fall 2015. f. Meadow restoration plan completed and implementation planned for September 2015. g. Implementation discussions in progress.
Natural Resources Conservation Service \$12 million over 5 years • \$3M for conservation easements via ACEP (FY 15) • \$500K for conifer treatments via EQIP (FY 15)	a. Landowner outreach on easement and habitat restoration opportunities b. Designate Bi-State area to allow NRCS to fund 75% of easement cost c. Conservation easements d. Seek matching funds and partners e. Request rancher permission to share easement and conifer removal information f. Co-sponsor a "Conifer Forum" g. Explore SGI SWAT partnership options h. Coordinate to identify priority conifer areas and utilize EQIP to accelerate projects	a. Completed in January and February of 2015. b. In Progress. c. Ongoing in high priority areas. d. New partners are consistently sought. e. Ongoing discussions with private property owners. f. Completed in February 2015. g. Developmental discussions underway h. NRCS coordinates with BLM/USFS/USGS and state agencies on priority conifer areas.
Bureau of Land Management \$6.5M over 10 years • \$651,540 in FY 15	a. NEPA/Planning b. Conifer removal (1095 acres, Bishop BLM) c. Bodie brood rearing habitat d. Conifer removal (301 acres, Carson BLM) e. Bodie early brood rearing habitat f. Cheatgrass control Pine Nut PMU g. Infrastructure	a. Bodie Hills Upland Vegetation Restoration Decision planned March 2015 b. In progress c. Meadow mowing occurred in Aurora Canyon d. Completed (2,210 acres in Mill Canyon Unit). 2,412 acres of treatment in the Mill Canyon Unit are planned for fall 2015. e. Planned for fall of 2015 f. Will be implemented pre and post treatment via BMPs in Pine Nut PMU. g. Infrastructure evaluation and implementation completed and ongoing. h. Ongoing assessment and implementation. The Pine Nut HMA gather is proposed for

Agency/Entity \$\$ Commitment	Project Commitment	Implementation Status
	h. Wild horses i. CPT and Science Advisor funding (\$35,000) j. Monitoring	fall/winter 2015/16. i. Funding Provided for CPT/Science Advisor j. Bishop BLM/USGS/CDFW collared 17 birds fall 2014 and will continue monitoring them. Carson BLM funded USGS for Pine Nut monitoring. Vegetation monitoring ongoing, partnering with NDOW/NPCD.
U.S. Geological Survey	a. Develop and apply modeling and science to inform adaptive management b. Conservation Planning Tool c. Integrated Population Model d. Population monitoring	a. Completed and ongoing b. Completed and refinement ongoing c. Completed and published d. Completed in Pine Nuts, assisting Bishop BLM, CDFW, NDOW, with Mt. Grant, Bodie and South Mono.
Mono County \$5.9 M by 2024 • ~\$315,000 in FY 15 (Jul 2015 – Jun 2016)	a. Coordinate on easement development and seek matching funds b. Pursue relocation/ removal of landfill c. Raven management at landfill d. Education/outreach to landowners e. General Plan update for sage-grouse conservation f. Assist BLM via cooperative agreement	a. Ongoing through Collaborative Planning Team subcommittee and coordination. Submitting grant application to enable matching funding. b. Ongoing, will be complete by 2023 c. Planning anticipated in 2015 d. Ongoing e. Ongoing, anticipated completion in late 2015/early 2016. f. New work program under development, projects ongoing.